



## **ATLANTIC SWORDFISH IMPORT BAN**

NMFS is banning the import of undersized Atlantic swordfish, extending dealer permitting and reporting requirements to swordfish importers, and implementing a Certificate of Eligibility program to aid in swordfish import tracking. These measures are necessary to implement a 1995 recommendation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) which recognized the need to control the harvest of undersized Atlantic swordfish. The United States is implementing these regulations to facilitate the collection of information relating to the trade in Atlantic swordfish which may hinder conservation efforts by the United States and ICCAT.

To inform importers and exporters of these new rules, NMFS had a booth at the International Boston Seafood Show : March 16-18, 1999. We also held a seminar on trade regulations for Atlantic swordfish and Atlantic bluefin tuna at the show on March 17, 1999 from 3-4:30 p.m.

To apply for a swordfish dealer permit, please call the NMFS Southeast Permit Office at (727) 570-5326. NMFS will send you dealer report forms after your permit has been issued. A sample Certificate of Eligibility form is available from NMFS by mail or the Internet at [www.nmfs.gov](http://www.nmfs.gov). This form is not required, any document can be submitted provided it supplies the required information.

For a copy of the final regulations and the supporting Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review or for more information, please contact Jill Stevenson at the Highly Migratory Species Management Division (301) 713-2347.

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